

Person: S. SYMINGTON

UPI-149

ADD 7 DEFENSE

BURKE GOT INTO TWO VERBAL HASSLES WITH SEN. STUART SYMINGTON (D-MO.), CHIEF ADMINISTRATION DEFENSE CRITIC AND POSSIBLE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

SYMINGTON QUESTIONED BURKE CLOSELY ON WHETHER THE MILITARY HAD PLANNED ITS DEFENSE BUDGET ON REVISED DOWNWARD INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF THE RUSSIAN MISSILE THREAT.

THE ADMIRAL CONCURRED THAT MILITARY PLANNERS HAD AT FIRST CONSIDERED THE MAXIMUM MISSILE CAPABILITY OF THE RUSSIANS BUT THEN DETERMINED THAT THE SOVIET WAS NOT GOING ON A "CRASH PROGRAM" AFTER ALL.

SYMINGTON THEN DEMANDED TO KNOW WHY MISSILE ESTIMATES GIVEN TO THE SENATORS IN SECRET SESSION BY ALLEN DULLES, CIA DIRECTOR, SHOWED A GREATER RUSSIAN MISSILE DANGER THAN BEFORE.

THE SENATOR SAID HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ANY DOWNWARD ESTIMATE OF RED MISSILE STRENGTH "UNLESS MR. DULLES WAS PERJURING HIMSELF BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE, WHICH I AM SURE IS NOT TRUE..."

BURKE PROTESTED THAT PERHAPS HE AND SYMINGTON HAD DIFFERENT FIGURES SO. THE ADMIRAL GOT UP AND COMPARED THEM WITH THE SENATOR IN A QUIET TWO-MAN HUDDLE.

"I STAND ON MY STATEMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN," SYMINGTON DECLARED AFTERWARD, ADDING THAT HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN SOMETIME LATER.

SYMINGTON ALSO ATTACKED BURKE'S STRONG CHAMPIONSHIP OF POLARIS MISSILE SUBS WHEN IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO CHANNEL MORE MONEY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF THE B-70 LONG-RANGE SUPersonic BOMBER.

THE SENATOR SAID NO SUB COULD GO MORE THAN 75 MILES PER HOUR BUT THE B-70 MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF REACHING SPEEDS OF 7,000 MILES PER HOUR.

"IT IS NOT SPEED WHICH GIVES THE POLARIS SUB ITS POWER," BURKE REPLIED. "IT IS THE FACT THAT IT CAN BE HIDDEN UNDER THE SEA."

BURKE SAID ALSO IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ARM MANY TYPES OF SURFACE SHIPS WITH POLARIS MISSILES, EVEN MERCHANT VESSELS.

2/8--N422P